REMARKS

The following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated August 1, 2003. Claims 1-2 and 4-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended to more particularly and distinctly claim the intention. No new matter has been added nor amendments that narrow the scope of any element of any claim. In the outstanding Office Action claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Claims 1-2 and 4-16 are presented for consideration.

35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-15[1] were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,126) in view of DeLorme et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,559,707) and further in view of Ran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,026, "Ran"). In making this rejection, the Office Action asserted that Hirakawa discloses all the elements of the claimed invention, except for teaching a system specifying a place and a map display means, or a route guidance means for providing a route guidance instruction. DeLorme and Ran were cited for disclosing these limitations.

The Office Action concluded that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these three references. Applicant's request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a navigation system for a vehicle. This system includes a text input means for entering a text of the electronic mail to be transmitted. An extracting

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[1] Although claims 1, 2 and 4-16 are pending, the Office Action inadvertently indicated that claims 1-15 were rejected.

means extracts a character string specifying a place from the text inputted by the text input means. An adding means adds information to the electronic mail. The information added corresponds to the place specified by the extracted character string. A text display means displays the text in the electronic mail. A map display means displays map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail. A route guidance means provides a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means.

Applicants' amended claim 6 recites a navigation system for a vehicle including a text input means for entering text of an electronic mail to be transmitted and a specifying means for specifying a place. An adding means for adds information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the specified place. A text display means for displays the text in the electronic mail. A map display means for displays map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail. A route guidance means for provides a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means. The electronic mail is transmitted from a transmitter communication terminal via a communication center to a receiver communication terminal. The transmitter communication terminal includes the text input means, the specifying means, the adding means, and a transmitting means for transmitting the electronic mail. The communication center includes a receiving means for receiving the electronic mail with the added information from the transmitter communication terminal, and a transmitting means for transmitting the electronic mail

with the added information. The receiver communication terminal includes a receiving means for receiving the electronic mail from the communication center, the text display means, and the map display means.

Applicants' claim 11 recites a method-for navigating a vehicle comprising the steps of: entering a text of an electronic mail to be transmitted; extracting a character string to specify a place from the text; adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string; displaying the text in the electronic mail; displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail; and route guidance means providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means.

Applicants' amended claim 13 recites a computer readable medium containing program instructions for performing the steps of: extracting a character string specifying a place from a text of an electronic mail; adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string; displaying the text in the electronic mail; displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail; and a route guidance means for providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means.

Applicants' amended claim 14 recites a navigation system for a vehicle including a text input means for entering a text of an electronic mail to be transmitted. A

specifying means is provided for specifying a place. An adding means is provided for adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string. A text display means is provided for displaying the text in the electronic mail. A map display means is provided for displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail. A route guidance means is provided for providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means.

In making this rejection, the Office Action took the position that the combination of the prior art discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention. However, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the structure of the claimed invention, and therefore, fails to provide the advantages of the present invention. For example, the navigation system for a vehicle of the present invention is configured to include a route guidance means that provides a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means.

With this arrangement, the system of the present invention can clearly locate a place indicated by a user to a receiver through email, at a receiver communication terminal using a map.

Hirakawa teaches a human interface system for communicating between network users. Fig. 1 illustrates a plurality of computers 100 connected in a network. Fig. 2 illustrates an example of one of these computers. Each computer includes an input section 120 that may be formed from a keyboard and/or a mouse with which the user

enters characters or commands. A display section 110, which may be a display unit, provides for displaying information including the text of e-mail. A communication section 130 connects each computer to the network. A control section 160 connects the input section 120, the display section 110 and the communication section 130.

Claim 1 recites, in part, an extracting means for extracting a character string to specify a place from the text input by the text input means. This claim element is a means-plus-function claim element under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. According to MPEP §§ 2182-2184, a proper prior art rejection must teach the function recited in the claim and must teach the same or equivalent structure disclosed in the present specification to accomplish the recited function. Therefore, the prior art must teach the function of "extracting a character string to specify a place from the text input by the text input means."

The Office Action asserts that Hirakawa at column 2, line 55 teaches an extracting means for extracting a character string to specify a place from the text input by the text input means. This section of Hirakawa, however, appears to only teach that it was well-known in the art to retrieve information on a desired function from an on-line user manual by specifying a particular keyword. The user would enter a keyword and information on the keyword/desired function would be retrieved using full-text searching/retrieving techniques. Thus, Hirakawa merely teaches the function of searching a document or documents for a keyword.

The system of Hirakawa also uses key words to extract and recognize "urgency" information from the text of the electronic mail message. This "urgency" information represents how quickly or promptly a sender would like the mail receiver to take action.

- 13 -

Accordingly, Hirakawa only teaches extracting "urgency" information from the text of the e-mail. Hirakawa, however, does not teach extracting place information (for example, the address of the sender as illustrated in Fig. 41) from the text or the email and then using the place information to display a map to the mail receiver.

Hirakawa provides examples of the keywords used in this full-text searching/retrieving technique at column 29, lines 50-54. These keywords include: emergency, urgency, by, if possible, be punctual for, seem, and appear. None of these key words, however, relate to the function of extracting a character string specifying a place from the text input by the text input means. Thus, Hirakawa fails to teach the extracting means' function of extracting a character string specifying a place from the text input by the text input means.

Claim 1 also recites, in part, an adding means for adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string. This claim element is a means-plus-function claim element under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. According to MPEP §§ 2182-2184, a proper prior art rejection must teach the function recited in the claim and must teach the same or equivalent structure disclosed in the present specification to accomplish the recited function. Therefore, the prior art must teach the function of "adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string".

The Office Action alleged that Hirakawa at column 33, lines 34-42 teaches an adding means for adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string. This section of

- 14 -

Hirakawa, however, only appears to teach determining the degree of importance of the received message for the called party on the basis of urgency information added to the message by the calling party degree of urgency judging unit 520 and the state of the called party obtained from the called party's state judging unit 550. Thus, Hirakawa merely teaches the function of adding urgency information to a message.

Adding urgency information to a message, however, is a different function than adding information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string. Consequently, Hirakawa fails to teach the adding means' function of adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string.

The Office Action admitted that Hirakawa fails to explicitly teach a system specifying a place and a map display means. The Office Action cited DeLorme as teaching the use of a map display for showing map information of a specified place. The Office Action asserted that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the map navigation feature of DeLorme with the system of Hirakawa so that map information could be transmitted and received. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

DeLorme simply displays a map specified as requested by a user and discloses a general map display device. DeLorme, however, does not display map information transmitted from another user. Thus, there is no motivation to combine DeLorme with Hirakawa.

DeLorme teaches a computer aided routing system. The system determines a travel route between a user selected origin and destination following user selected

waypoints. The computer aided routing system database includes travel information obtained from a range of multimedia sources about transportation routes, waypoints and points of interest selected by the user along the travel route.

DeLorme teaches displaying maps with user selected waypoints. Additionally, this reference may calculate an optimum route based on the user selected waypoint list.

DeLorme also teaches extracting a street address stored in a database as a waypoint input. Thus, DeLorme merely teaches the function of extracting an address from a database and the function of using the extracted address as a waypoint. These functions, however, are different from the function of extracting a character string specifying a place from the text input by the text input means recited by the present claims.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a map display means for displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail. This claim element is a means-plus-function claim element under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. According to MPEP §§ 2182-2184, a proper prior art rejection must teach the function recited in the claim and must teach the same or equivalent structure disclosed in the present specification to accomplish the recited function. Therefore, the prior art must teach the function of "displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail".

The Office Action asserts that DeLorme at column 35, lines 11-44 teaches using a map display for showing map information of a specified place. This section of DeLorme , however, teaches that the user must select the information to be displayed. Thus, the user selects what he wants to see. Accordingly, DeLorme teaches the function of displaying

- 16 -

map information indicating the specified places corresponding to the map user's selected or entered information.

Displaying map information corresponding to the map users selected or entered information, however, is a different function than displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to <u>the information added to the electronic mail</u>. Consequently, even if DeLorme were combined with Hirakawa, Applicant maintains that it would not be obvious to combine these two references. DeLorme fails to teach the function of displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail.

The Office Action also admitted that DeLorme and Hirakawa fail to explicitly teach a route guidance means. The Office Action cites Ran as correcting this deficiency in the combination of Hirakawa and DeLorme.

Ran teaches a system in which a central processing system and a local processing system are utilized for providing personalized Internet real-time traveler data or information. Real-time traveler information is received from various sources and stored. A user's real-time personalized travel request is processed and transmitted to the user's Internet in-vehicle navigation device based on the user's defined frequency. As shown in Fig. 1, a user may also register with the host server and obtain a password through which personalized route information may be obtain for example, via email.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a route guidance means providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail; the route guidance means being provided with the map display means.

This claim element is a means-plus-function claim element under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. According to MPEP §§ 2182-2184, a proper prior art rejection must teach and function recited in the claim and must teach the same or equivalent structure disclosed in the present specification to accomplish the recited function. Therefore, the prior art must teach the function "providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means."

However, as discussed above, the combination of Hirakawa and DeLorme fails to disclose or suggest the extracting means, the adding means or the map display means of the present invention. The map display means of the present invention has the function of displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the email.

Therefore, although it may be argued that Ran discloses some of the elements of the claimed invention, even if Ran was combined with Hirakawa and DeLorme, these references still fail to teach and/or suggest an extracting means for extracting a character string specifying a place from the text inputted by the text input means.

These references also fail to teach the function of adding information to the electronic mail the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string. Therefore, these references fail to teach and/or suggest an adding means for adding information to the electronic mail, the information corresponding to the place specified by the extracted character string.

These references also fail to teach the function of displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic

mail. Therefore, these references fail to teach and/or suggest a map display means for displaying map information indicating the specified place corresponding to the information added to the electronic mail.

Independent claims 6 and 14 are also written in means-plus-function claim language. Thus, as discussed above, according to MPEP §§ 2182-2184, a proper prior art rejection must teach and function recited in the claim and must teach the same or equivalent structure disclosed in the present specification to accomplish the recited function. The prior art must teach at least the function of "providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail, the route guidance means being provided with the map display means," as recited in claims 6 and 11. Therefore, as also discussed above, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest at least this limitation.

Claim 11 furthers recites the step of providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail and claim 13 further recites a computer readable medium containing instructions for providing a route guidance instruction based on the information added to the electronic mail. As discussed above, the prior art fails to at least disclose or suggest this limitation.

Additionally, regarding the rejection of claims 4 and 16, it was asserted DeLorme and Ran, respectively, disclose the claimed limitations. However, the Office Action did not state why one of ordinary skill in the art would be compelled to further modify Hirakawa or the combination of Hirakawa and DeLorme to arrive at the claimed invention. This is an improper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) and therefore, Applicants conclude that claims 4 and 16 are allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

As claims 2, 4-5 and 16 are dependent upon claim 1, claims 7-10 are dependent upon claim 6, claim 12 is dependent upon claim 11 and claim 15 is dependent upon claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that each of these claims incorporate the patentable aspects thereof, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.
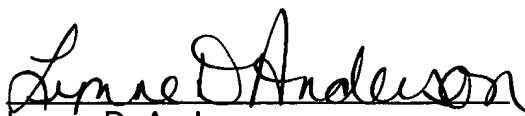
Conclusion

Applicants' remarks have overcome the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated August 1, 2003. Specifically, Applicants' remarks have distinguished the claimed invention from the cited prior art and thus overcome the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-16.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned Attorney by telephone, if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional which may be required with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107439-08005.

Respectfully submitted,

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